



NATIONAL
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS
SERVICE

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WEATHER & CROPS

Week Ending: May 1, 2011

Number: 8

Released: May 2, 2011

WEATHER CONDITIONS AND CROP SUMMARY FOR WEEK ENDING MAY 1, 2011

Major storms rolled through the Commonwealth throughout the week. Excessive rainfall, flooding and tornados ravaged the state leaving damage to fields, pastures and farm roads. Days suitable for fieldwork were 4.5. Golf ball sized hail flattened barley in some areas. Wheat and barley farmers continued to scout for insects and diseases. Corn planting was delayed in some areas due to the rainy conditions while in other areas corn began to emerge and is growing well. Soybean planting continued at a fast pace and farmers began preparation for dark tobacco and cotton planting to begin soon. Peanut planting has commenced. Strawberry harvest has begun and growers are preparing for tomatoes, peppers and other summer crops.

TOPSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT

Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
April 3, 2011	2	4	86	8
April 10, 2011	0	6	83	11
April 17, 2011	1	2	73	24
April 24, 2011	2	6	75	17
May 1, 2011	2	8	73	17

SUBSOIL MOISTURE PERCENT

Week Ending	Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
April 3, 2011	8	22	68	2
April 10, 2011	4	18	75	3
April 17, 2011	3	10	80	7
April 24, 2011	2	11	79	8
May 1, 2011	2	11	77	10

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**Virginia Cooperative Extension
Service**

Virginia Tech

Virginia State University



Virginia Cooperative Extension
A partnership of Virginia Tech and Virginia State University www.ext.vt.edu



VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY

CROP CONDITION PERCENT					
Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Pasture	1	4	24	60	11
Livestock	1	5	20	58	16
Hay, Other	1	4	24	59	12
Hay, Alfalfa	0	1	17	63	19
Winter Wheat	0	1	14	66	19
Barley	0	4	22	59	15
Oats	0	0	14	85	1
Tobacco, Greenhouse	0	0	4	78	18
Tobacco, Plantbeds	0	0	13	87	0
Summer Potatoes	0	0	50	50	0
Apples, All	0	0	35	65	0
Peaches	0	3	53	44	0
Grapes	0	0	27	73	0

CROP PROGRESS PERCENT – WITH COMPARISONS				
Crop	This Week	Last Week	Last Year	5 Year Avg.
Corn Planted	56	39	65	59
Corn Emerged	20	2	24	26
Flue Cured Tobacco Transplanted	19	0	30	21
Burley Tobacco Transplanted	1	0	5	1
Dark Fire-Cured Tobacco Transplanted	1	0	4	2
Soybeans Planted	5	0	7	5
Winter Wheat Headed	42	16	32	24
Peanuts Planted	3	2	4	5
Oats for grain Seeded	50	32	50	10
Cotton Planted	17	10	16	23

VIRGINIA WEEKLY WEATHER SUMMARY FOR THE WEEK ENDING MAY 1, 2011

City	Temperature						Growing degree days (modified base 50) 1/		Precipitation				
	Avg. max.	Avg. min.	High max.	Low min.	Avg.	Avg. dep. from normal *	Mar. 1 to Apr. 30	Mar. 1 to Apr. 30 normal	Last Week	Since Mar. 1	Mar. 1 dep. from normal *	Jan. 1 to date	Jan. 1 dep. from normal *
Lynchburg	80	54	86	39	67	9	504	412	2.38	8.05	0.74	11.46	-2.51
Norfolk	82	64	89	51	73	13	565	441	0.22	4.19	-3.29	10.07	-4.73
Richmond	82	59	88	44	71	11	573	483	0.81	6.91	-0.36	11.47	-2.34
Roanoke	80	57	88	45	68	9	514	NA	1.08	9.57	2.10	12.59	-1.24
Wash/Dulles	78	56	86	47	67	11	414	NA	1.67	10.24	3.46	14.32	1.76

* Normal based on 1971-2000 data. Source: NCEP/NOAA Climate Prediction Center <http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>. Source: USDA, NASS, Virginia Field Office.

REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY

Comments are based on comments reported by extension agents, farmers, commodity specialists, and other knowledgeable individuals.

NORTHERN

FREDERICK (Jeanette Smith)

On 4/28/2011 Frederick experienced high winds, excessive rainfall, tornado warnings and some creek flooding. No damage reported thus far. Temperatures have been mild.

WESTERN

BATH (Rodney Leech)

Midweek storms caused damage to fields, pasture and farm roads.

HIGHLAND (Rodney Leech)

Heavy thunderstorms caused flooding with some road damage, destroyed fences and left a lot of debris which delayed fertilization and other farm activities.

ROCKBRIDGE (Tom Stanley)

Rain at different points during the week, mostly early Thursday morning, brought between .25 and .75 inches of rain to most of Rockbridge. This kept soil moisture in the adequate to surplus range and further delayed corn planting and other critical field work. Forage growth on pasture and hayfields is good to excellent in most areas of the county.

CENTRAL

AMELIA (Joan D Poore)

A few tenths of rain Thursday was enough to halt field work. The ground is dry from the windy conditions.

APPOMATTOX (Bruce Jones)

Rain was scattered across much of Appomattox County last week. Hay cutting will start this week. Soybean planting continued at a fast pace. Dark tobacco planting will start around May 10th.

BUCKINGHAM (Joseph Chandler)

Parts of Cumberland sustained abnormal weather damage on 4-27-11 from a multi-vortex tornado. The storm produced golf ball size hail flattening barley, downing trees, damaging fencing, and several structures. No fatalities were reported.

CAROLINE (McGann Saphir)

Grain farmers are about 1/2 to 2/3 done with corn planting. Some early soybeans have been planted. Wheat and barley have been top-dressed and some fungicides and growth regulators have also been applied. So far cereal leaf beetle has not been seen in threshold numbers. Farmers continue to scout for insects and diseases. Vegetable farmers are harvesting strawberries and putting out tomatoes, peppers, and other summer crops. Soil moisture continues to be adequate to slightly surplus.

HANOVER (Jim Tate)

Big storms with small tornadoes swept through the county. There was a small twister down the road across from my house. Nearly two inches of rain fell in my western Hanover neighborhood. I have not had a report of rain volumes in eastern Hanover. Corn is emerging and growing well across the county. Small grain is heading out. Grass volume is light and thin looking. Some early hay has been made but do not have reports on yields. Grass seems to be heading out at below normal height as does some small grain.

PRINCE EDWARD (Jimmy Gantt)

A tornado touched down in the Rice area of Prince Edward County on the evening of April 27. No significant damage to crops, livestock or buildings has been reported.

EASTERN

ESSEX (Keith Balderson)

Farmers spent the week completing corn planting, applying fungicides and insecticides to wheat, and preparing fields for full-season soybean planting. A few full-season soybeans have been planted. Vegetable farmers continued to plant summer vegetables and harvest strawberries and asparagus.

MIDDLESEX (David Moore)

What a spring! Crops look good for the most part. Winds will not decrease. Tornado damages on April 16th. Agricultural damages to crops, fields, and structures. Corn is germinating fast. Fields are up in 4-5 days. Some folks are done and other just getting started. There is talk of planting soybeans by week's end. Small grains look very good.

REPORTER COMMENTS BY COUNTY (continued)

Comments are based on comments reported by extension agents, farmers, commodity specialists, and other knowledgeable individuals.

SOUTHWESTERN

SCOTT (Scott Jerrell)

Rain showers continue to hamper most farming activities. Vegetable producers are getting anxious to bed more ground, as second planting is falling behind.

SMYTH (Andy Overbay)

Tornadic weather on Wednesday evening/Thursday morning left pockets of extreme devastation in Chilhowie area of Smyth County.

TAZEWELL (John Blankenship)

Tornados and Micro Blasts blew through the County this week uprooting trees, fences and farm structures.

WASHINGTON (Phil Blevins)

There was severe damage across a wide sector of our agriculture community from the tornado. Miles and miles of fences down or destroyed, livestock lost, many barns destroyed, wild cherry trees down everywhere, trash in most hayfields, acres and acres of timber down, etc. It will be a long time getting back up to speed.

SOUTHEASTERN

BRUNSWICK (Cynthia L. Gregg)

Storms this week dropped rain and high winds on us. Overall we were lucky and did not have severe damage. The rain was quick and did not soak in well so subsoil moisture is in need. Small grains are looking good and seem to be heading out well. Tobacco was being planted this week as steady as possible. Pastures and hay fields could be better; we have

BRUNSWICK (Cynthia L. Gregg) (cont'd)

seen many winter weeds bloom this spring: mustard, buttercup, henbit, and chickweed to name a few. This means some control measures will need to be planned for the fall in some cases.

DINWIDDIE (Mike Parrish)

Some parts of the county are in need of rain, to help tobacco transplants and crusted ground holding back corn and some cotton seedlings.

PRINCE GEORGE (Scott Reiter)

Soil moisture conditions are variable across the county. Areas that did not receive much rain on the April 16-17 weekend are drying out quickly. The wheat and barley crops look good. Corn planting is almost finished with just a few acres left to plant. Growers are ready to plant peanuts and cotton and maybe a few soybeans the first week of May.

SOUTHAMPTON (John Rudy)

Corn planting continues. Preparation was underway for cotton, peanut and soybean planting. Small grains look good. Can use the rain predicted for this week.

SURRY (Glenn Slade)

Corn planting is almost complete, burn-down sprays and land being bedded, with cotton, peanuts and soybeans going in.

SUSSEX (Kelvin Wells)

Scattered showers fell over much of our area giving us some much needed moisture. Corn planting is wrapping up; soybean planting has started in some areas as well as cotton planting. Peanut planting will get underway this week as temperatures warm up.



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